

CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Date: April 22, 2020

To: City Staff, Media

From: Mayor Jamael Tito Brown

Our country and life as we once knew it are under attack by the global COVID-19 pandemic. This attack has created and caused budget shortfalls for local city governments across the country.

COVID-19 has caused a direct loss of revenue to the City of Youngstown. City Administration is working to develop a furlough process in order to stabilize our finances similar to other local cities nationally, while being mindful to continue the process of protecting the health and safety of our employees.

We have engaged all unions and non-union employees in discussions regarding the economic impact this pandemic has had on our nation, state, and local economy. We value every employee and stress; they have done nothing wrong. We still cannot fully anticipate what affect this global pandemic will have on our lifestyle going forward.

We are offering a voluntary furlough to employees we have characterized as nonessential in order to protect the health and safety of our employees and be mindful of the City's loss of revenue. Our plan is derived from examples of what other local cities are doing to help with the loss of revenue. Toledo, Akron, Cincinnati, and Dayton, just to name a few cities in Ohio, have made dramatic changes to the employment landscape of those communities.

We recognize that we will feel the aftermath of this virus in our country and in our community for years to come. The City of Youngstown is projecting the loss of revenue from income tax (minimum 15%), the casino tax (which generates about a \$1 million a year in revenue) and the gas tax (ODOT Predicts \$86 million loss to local government due to COVID-19). Our enterprise funds are deeply impacted due to the Governor providing safeguards to water customers by temporarily placing a moratorium on water service disconnections. It was fair but will have a long-term budget impact.

The current furlough plan does not include the following first responders: Sworn Police Officers, Firefighters, 911 Personnel, and Sanitation workers.

The current furlough plan will be reviewed every 30 days and will be amended based on updates and orders provided by the governor.